AYLESBURY HIGH SCHOOL
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION

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Preface

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Structure of this Report

Section 1 serves as an introduction to the project, describing the location of the proposed development, the archaeological background and the aims of the field evaluation. The methodology and results of the trial trenching are discussed in section 2, while section 3 provides a synthesis of the results, and an appraisal of their significance. Section 4 is a bibliography. Detailed descriptions of the deposits and artefacts revealed by the trial trenching are presented in appendices.

Key Terms

Throughout this report the following terms or abbreviations are used:

BCC's AO	Buckinghamshire County Council's Archaeological Officer
Client	Babtie Group
SMR	Sites and Monuments Record
IFA	Institute of Field Archaeologists
Procedures Manual	*Procedures Manual Volume 1 Fieldwork,* 2nd edn, 2001 Albion Archaeology

Non-Technical Summary

It is proposed to develop land at Aylesbury High School to provide a new sports hall and classroom block. Buckinghamshire County Council's Archaeological Officer advised that the area being considered for development was within an archaeologically sensitive location and that further information on the archaeological potential of the site was required to allow any planning application to be determined.

In September 2004 Albion Archaeology were commissioned by Babtie Group to undertake an archaeological field evaluation of the site, on behalf of Buckinghamshire County Council. The aim was to establish the extent and condition of any archaeological remains, to characterise them and to allow their importance to be assessed.

The site lies in a landscape rich in archaeological remains dating from the prehistoric, Roman, Saxon and medieval periods. Several recent archaeological investigations have been undertaken within close proximity to the site.

Four trial trenches were opened, only two of which produced evidence for archaeological features. Two early Roman (1st – 2nd century AD) field boundary ditches were located.

It is possible that these ditches represent the remains of a field system related to a contemporary settlement focus, located immediately to the north-west of the site (SMR 6377, 637701, Babtie 2001). However, the relative paucity of the artefact assemblage and the abraded nature of the pottery sherds recovered during the evaluation suggest that the settlement focus did not extend into the present site.

The alignment of the ditches observed during this evaluation was similar to the remains of possible field systems observed during earlier excavations which took place to the north-west of Walton Road (SMR 6733). It is suggested that the ditches recorded during the current evaluation may have been part of a similar field system to the south-east of Walton Road.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Planning Background

The property services section of Buckinghamshire County Council are proposing to develop land at Aylesbury High School to provide a new sports hall and classroom block.

As the local planning authority's archaeological adviser, Buckinghamshire County Council's Archaeological Officer (BCC's AO) has advised that the area being considered for development is within an archaeologically sensitive location. He issued a brief (BCC 2004) for a scheme of trial trenching to evaluate the archaeological potential of the proposed development area (hereafter referred to as the site) and to provide sufficient information to allow any planning application to be determined.

Albion Archaeology was subsequently commissioned by Babtie Group, acting on behalf of Buckinghamshire County Council, to undertake the evaluation and to prepare this report on the results.

1.2 Site Location and Description

The site lies 0.9km south-east of Aylesbury town centre in the suburb of Walton, which is separated from the main town by the Bear Brook (Figure 1). It is centred on grid reference SP 8260 1322. It is rectangular in plan and *c.*1000m² in extent. It lies at an average height of *c.*85m above Ordnance Datum (AOD) on broadly flat grassland. The soils of the area are derived from the underlying Portland Limestone and Ampthill clay geology (British Geological Survey 1979).

The site is bordered by school buildings to the north and east, by open land belonging to the school to the south-east, and by residential buildings to the west and south-west. Several trees and temporary structures (sheds and portacabins) were present within and around the site.

1.3 Archaeological Background

This section summarises documentary, cartographic and archaeological evidence held in the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) for a study area of 500m radius around the centre point of the site.

1.3.1 Prehistoric (before AD43)

An archaeological excavation took place *c.*150m west of the site in 1994. As a result several middle Bronze Age pits and four possible circular structures of the same date were revealed (SMR 6724, Ford and Howell 1994). Several Mesolithic flint blades were also recovered, although it is suspected that these probably represented stray losses.

Further excavations to the west of the site, at Walton Lodge Lane, took place in 1994. The results indicated late neolithic to late Bronze Age settlement activity and an early Bronze Age cremation cemetery (SMR 6107, SMA 1995). Round

houses and pitting dating from the middle to late Bronze Age have also been recorded in the area (SMR 6732).

Early, middle and late Iron Age remains (SMR 6377) were recorded during the construction of a new music block at the school (Babtie 2001), immediately to the north-west of the present site.

1.3.2 Roman (AD43 – c.AD450)

The site is located approximately 500m south-west of the suspected line of a Roman road known as Akeman Street, which may account for the numerous finds of coins and pottery sherds made within the vicinity of the school (SMR 0255, 0532, 1804, 1931, 0147).

During construction of the music block (see above) the remains of a Romano-British farmstead (SMR 6377, 637701) were also recorded. Finds included kiln furniture, suggesting settlement and industrial activity took place in this area during the Roman period.

An inhumation cemetery, a building, an oven, and boundary ditches were excavated in 1994, approximately 150m to the west of the site. In addition, several ditch systems were observed aligned perpendicular to the existing Walton Road. It was suggested these may have been part of an early Roman landscape due to the presence of Belgic brick (SMR 6733).

1.3.3 Anglo-Saxon (AD 410-1066)

The name, Aylesbury, is first recorded in *c.*900 as *Aegelesburh*. Early references such as this can sometimes be indicative of contemporary settlement. An assumption which in this vicinity is backed up by physical remains dating to the period (Hanley and Hunt 1993).

The triangular Walton Green may preserve traces of an Anglo-Saxon settlement layout. Such a pattern has been observed and discussed in relation to several Cambridgeshire villages (Taylor 1998).

Several excavations in the Walton area have revealed the remains of settlement activity dating to this period. This includes at least ten middle Saxon structures recorded *c.*150m west of the site. This multi-phase settlement comprised both rectangular post-built halls and some sunken-featured buildings (SFBs) (Ford and Howell 1994, SMR 6108). Additional excavations in the immediate vicinity have revealed SFBs and post-built halls with some evidence of early Saxon buildings having been destroyed by fire.

Excavations at Walton Court Farm, 400m south-west of the site, also produced two Saxon SFBs (SMR 0093). A present-day cemetery located only 200m to the north-east produced evidence of Saxon burial activity in the early part of the 20th century (SMR 1944). An excavation on the former site of police houses, 400m to the south-west, produced late Saxon features (SMR 5555).

Various SMR entries indicate finds of Saxon material within the area (SMR 5208).

1.3.4 Medieval (AD1066-AD1550)

Although Walton is now a suburb of Aylesbury, it was originally a separate settlement. Documentary sources indicate the existence of a separate manor in AD1237-40 (Mawer and Stenton 1925).

The Stonor family is recorded as owning land in Walton during the reign of Edward II. Further mention is made of Gilbert de Stonor who died in AD1415 having owned a manor at Walton. A later source refers to John, Duke of Norfolk, owning land here in AD1461. The manor of Walton was then transferred to the church (Sheahan 1971).

Walton Court farmhouse, *c.*400m south-west of the site, is considered a likely location for the original manor house. This suggestion is reinforced by a limited amount of physical evidence in the form of earthworks, described as '*...undulating ground adjoining foundations of buildings ...have been dug up'*. These are likely to be the earthworks indicated on cartographic sources as '*Intrenchments'* (RCHME 1912). Archaeological investigation of these earthworks took place in 1973 indicating a medieval date.

Excavations at Walton Lodge Lane in 1994 produced four large pit clusters and several postholes. Artefactual material indicated a medieval date, suggesting settlement existed along the present-day Walton Road at this time. The presence of ceramic floor and roof tile in some of the archaeological features may suggest that these roadside structures were ultimately demolished (SMR 6731).

Other excavations in the vicinity of Walton Road (SMR 5500) and Croft Road (SMR 5593) have also produced evidence of medieval occupation. In addition, an excavation in 1987 on the former site of police houses, 400m to the south-west, recorded medieval rubbish pits and a substantial medieval boundary ditch (SMR 5555).

Various other SMR entries indicate medieval activity in the area (SMR 0254, 6783).

1.3.5 Post-medieval (AD1550-AD1900)

The site lies on land previously owned by Walton Grange, which is believed to have had 16th century origins. The stables and associated outbuildings of the grange are shown on 19th century cartographic sources and are likely to have originally been of a similar date (RCHME 1912). Extensive well landscaped gardens are also shown.

Another large house, considered to be broadly contemporary with the grange was Walton Grove, located *c.*150m south of the site. A pond associated with this house was used to breed the famous Aylesbury ducks during this period (Parrot 1982).

In 1772 the Parish of Aylesbury was enclosed by an act of Parliament. At this time the largest single landowner was the prebendary of Heydour-cum-Walton who received 200 acres for Walton Court Farm.

In 1759 the London Foundling Hospital opened a country branch at The Crofts on the north side of Walton Road, (SMR 6734). Within the grounds of this hospital stood Walton House. This was demolished between 1945-46 and therefore its origins remain obscure. However, a gateway with ornamental brickwork associated with this building indicates that it may have been constructed during the 17th century.

Holy Trinity church on Walton Street was consecrated in 1845 and represents one of the few surviving Victorian churches in Aylesbury (SMR 6719). It is constructed of brick, flint and stone.

Many of the buildings which still exist within Walton were constructed in the Victorian period. However, Georgian architecture is also prevalent along Walton Street. Despite the many Victorian facades, it is considered likely that some of these buildings may conceal earlier, timber framed, 17th century construction (Pevsner and Williamson 1994). Many of the buildings along Walton Street and Walton Road were of 17th century date (RCHME 1912).

The construction of the Aylesbury arm of the Grand Union Canal (SMR 2952) and the Great Western Railway (opened in 1815 and 1863 respectively) stimulated the industrial development of the area. Numerous references in the SMR indicate landing stages and warehouses associated with canal-side industry (SMR 672102). This industrial heritage is still present in the form of factories such as Nestle, built in 1870, 400m to the north of the site.

Opened in 1878, several other factories such as the now demolished Hazell Watson & Viney's printing works (300m to the north-east) and the engine works (50m to the north-east) also hint at the industrial past of this part of Aylesbury (Parrot 1982, Pevsner and Williamson 1994).

1.3.6 Modern

During this period many office buildings were constructed in Walton Street, in response to the growing insurance industry (Hanley and Hunt 1993). Construction of new housing estates and other developments have also taken place within the immediate vicinity of Aylesbury High School.

In order to make way for this modern development much of the post-medieval, and even early modern architecture, has been removed. This includes the Aylesbury Urban District Council electricity depot (SMR 6721) built in 1915, and demolished in 1999.

2. TRIAL TRENCH EXCAVATION

2.1 Introduction

The trial trenching took place between 1st and 3rd August 2004. A total of four trenches were opened.

2.2 Aims and Method Statement

Throughout the project the standards set out in the following documents were adhered to:

- IFA's *Standard and Guidance for Field Evaluation*;
- Albion Archaeology's *Procedures Manual for Archaeological Fieldwork and the Analysis of Fieldwork Records* (1996);
- IFA's *Code of Conduct*;
- English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects* (1991).

The trench plan (Figure 1) was discussed with, and approved by, BCC's AO prior to any trial trenching taking place. Changes were made to the original trench plan, due to the existence of live services and trees within and close to the site. These changes were discussed with and approved by BCC's AO during his monitoring visit. The trenches were designed to:

- determine the location, extent, nature and date of any archaeological features or deposits that were present;
- obtain information on the integrity and state of preservation of any archaeological features or deposits that were present.

The initial area of trenching sampled 48m^2 of the site. Provision was made for contingency trenching of a further 16m^2, to allow for the further investigation of any significant features or deposits encountered in the initial phase of investigation. No contingency was invoked.

The location of all trenches was marked out on the ground in advance of machine excavation. Topsoil and modern overburden were mechanically removed by a tracked excavator, fitted with a toothless ditching bucket and operating under close archaeological supervision. These deposits were removed down to the top of the archaeological deposits, or undisturbed geological deposits, whichever was encountered first. The spoil heaps were scanned for artefacts.

The bases and sections of all trenches were cleaned by hand. The deposits and any potential archaeological features were noted, cleaned, excavated by hand and recorded using Albion Archaeology's *pro forma* sheets. The trenches were subsequently drawn, and photographed as appropriate. All deposits were recorded using a unique recording number sequence commencing at 100 for Trench 1, 200 for Trench 2 etc.

The trenches were inspected by BCC's AO prior to being backfilled.

2.3 Results

The deposits in each trench are summarised below; detailed descriptions can be found in Appendix 1. Archaeological features, containing artefactual material and animal bone, were recorded in Trenches 2 and 3 only.

2.3.1 Trench 1 (Figure 2)

Trench 1 was 5.00m long and 1.60m wide and was aligned north-west to south–east. It was located at the north-west end of the site.

The underlying geology was not revealed in this trench due to the presence of a layer of blue concrete (102). This occurred at a depth of 1.00m and formed the base of the entire trench. It was overlain by a firm grey brown silt containing modern rubbish (101). Clearly this represents a large modern cut feature [103], possibly part of an ornamental pond, which may be seen on copies of historical aerial photographs held by the school.

The overlying topsoil (100) consisted of a friable grey/brown silt approximately 0.30m thick. It contained moderate amounts of small to medium stones and occasional modern brick/tile fragments.

2.3.2 Trench 2 (Figure 2, Plate 1)

Trench 2 was 10.00m long, 1.60m wide and aligned north-east to south-west. It was located in the south-eastern half of the site.

The underlying geology (202) consisted of a yellow/white clay silt with frequent limestone cobbles.

Ditch [203] cut through this deposit approximately 3.70m from the south-western end of the trench. It was 3.00m wide and 0.92m deep with stepped sides and a flat base. Some slumping was noted on its north-eastern edge is likely to have been caused by natural processes. This ditch contained three deposits (204) (205) and (206). A sample (1) from primary deposit (206) produced no charred plant remains and showed extensive, recent root disturbance.

The upper deposit (204) consisted of a cemented light grey brown silty clay with frequent small to medium stones and occasional fragments of early Roman pottery and animal bone (Appendix 2).

Ditch [203] was sealed by a friable mid grey silty subsoil (201) approximately 0.40m thick.

A land drain [207] orientated north-west to south-east was observed 0.50m from the north-eastern end of the trench. It cut through subsoil (201). A fragment of residual samian pottery was recovered from its backfill (Appendix 2).

Topsoil (200) consisted of a friable grey/brown silt approximately 0.30m thick. It contained moderate small to medium stones and occasional brick/tile fragments.

2.3.3 Trench 3 (Figure 2, Plates 2 and 3)

Trench 3 was 10.00m long, 1.60m wide and was aligned north-east to south-west. It was located at the south-eastern end of the site.

The underlying geology (305) consisted of a firm yellow white clay silt with frequent limestone fragments.

Two ditches [302] and [306] were observed 1.00m and 4.10m from the north-eastern end of the trench respectively. Both features cut through natural deposits (305).

Ditch [302] was aligned north-west to south-east. It was 1.00m wide and 0.50m deep with irregular convex sides and a concave base. It contained two deposits (303) and (304). The primary deposit (304) was a firm dark yellow brown silt, representing the slumping of material into the ditch from the south-west. The upper deposit (303) consisted of a firm yellow brown silt, containing sherds from an early Roman sand tempered jar.

Ditch [306] was aligned north-west to south-east. It was 2.18m wide and 0.69m deep with smooth concave sides and a flat base. The primary deposit (308) consisted of firm grey brown silty clay. This was overlain by friable red brown silty clay (307) with frequent medium limestone inclusions and occasional fragments of animal bone and pottery (Appendix 2).

Ditches [302] and [306] were both sealed by a friable dark grey silty subsoil (301) approximately 0.40m thick.

The continuation of the land drain seen in Trench 2 was observed 0.20m from the north-eastern end of the trench. It cut through subsoil (301).

Topsoil (300), approximately 0.10m thick, consisted of a friable dark grey silt containing occasional small to medium stones and fragments of fossil oyster shell and red brick.

2.3.4 Trench 4 (Figure 2)

Trench 4 was 5.00m long, 1.60m wide and was aligned north-east to south–west. It was located at the north-western end of the site.

The underlying geology was not revealed in this trench due to the presence of a utility pipe [402] at a depth of approximately 1.00m. The pipe cut through subsoil (401).

The edge of a modern feature [404], perhaps related to the large feature observed in Trench 1 [103], was also seen in this trench.

Topsoil (400) consisted of a friable grey brown silt approximately 0.30m thick. It contained moderate small to medium stones and occasional brick/tile fragments.

3. SYNTHESIS

3.1 Summary of Results

Ditches [203] (Trench 2) and [306] (Trench 3) were similar in profile, dimensions and character, although the profile of ditch [203] had been altered by slumping. The excavated segments were only 10.00m apart and are likely to be part of the same field boundary. A smaller ditch [302], observed in Trench 3 only, suggests multiple demarcation of field boundaries. Pottery from these features dates them to the early Roman period (1st – 2nd century AD).

Ditches [203] and [306] both contained similar, upper deposits (204, 307). These were similar in character to the surrounding undisturbed geological clay. It is possible that this upper deposit was originally part of a bank located at one side of the ditches.

Trenches 1 and 4 identified significant modern truncation at the north-western end of the site. This took the form of modern services and a possible ornamental pond, which had been backfilled and landscaped. A considerable quantity of made ground was also recorded at the north-western end of the site. This could not be removed during fieldwork because of the presence of live services. The made ground appears to account for the variation in AOD heights across the site. For example, the present ground surface in the north-western part of the site is 83.35m AOD, whereas in the south-eastern part of the site it is 82.58m AOD.

3.2 Significance of Results

The evaluation has demonstrated the presence of a small number of early Roman linear archaeological features within the site. It has also successfully demonstrated the nature and state of preservation of these deposits.

An archaeological watching brief to the north-west of the site revealed a late Iron Age and early Roman settlement focus, including possible industrial activity (SMR 6377, 637701, Babtie 2001). It is possible that the ditches observed in Trenches 2 and 3 represent elements of a field system, related to this settlement. The relative lack of finds and the abraded nature of the pottery recovered from them suggest the evaluated site lies some distance from the settlement focus.

In addition to the above, nearby excavations have observed several ditch systems aligned perpendicular to the existing Walton Road (SMR 6733). This is similar to the ditches observed in the evaluation and indicates the possibility of Roman field systems existing to the south-east of Walton Road.

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5. APPENDIX

5.1 Trench and Context Summaries

Trench: 1

Max Dimensions: Length: 5.00 m. Width: 1.60 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0. m. Max: 0. m.

OS Co-ordinates: Ref. 1: SP8258813238 Ref. 2: SP8259113234

Reason for trench: Evaluate the north-west of the site.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
100	Topsoil	Friable dark grey brown silt occasional small-medium ceramic building material, moderate small-medium stones Diffuse boundary with (101)	☑	☐
103	**Modern Intrusion**	**Cut unseen in trench. Possible ornamental pond.**	☑	☐
101	Backfill	Firm mid grey brown silt moderate small-medium ceramic building material, moderate small-medium chalk Modern rubbish (including plastic, steel pipe and drink cans)	☑	☐
102	Concrete	Cemented light blue Possible ornamental pond base	☐	☐

Trench: **2**

Max Dimensions: **Length: 10.00 m. Width: 1.60 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.52 m. Max: 0.53 m.**

OS Co-ordinates: **Ref. 1: SP8261613218 Ref. 2: SP8260913211**

Reason for trench: **Evaluate the centre of the site.**

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
200	Topsoil	Friable dark grey silt occasional small-medium ceramic building material, occasional small-medium stones Occasional fragments of fossil oyster shell from natural. Boundary with (201) is diffuse over approximately 0.04m	☑	☐
201	Subsoil	Friable mid grey silt moderate small stones Contains moderate fossil oyster shells from natural.	☑	☐
202	Natural	Firm yellow white clay silt Contains frequent small-large, shell fragments (mainly oyster shell)	☐	☐
203	**Ditch**	**Linear NW-SE profile: stepped base: flat dimensions: max breadth 3.01m, max depth 0.92m**	☑	☐
204	Upper fill	Cemented light grey brown silty clay frequent small-medium stones	☑	☑
205	Secondary fill	Firm mid grey brown silty clay moderate medium stones	☑	☐
206	Primary fill	Friable grey silty clay occasional small stones Fill feels very plastic and sticky.	☑	☑
207	**Land drain**	**Linear NW-SE dimensions: max breadth 0.2m, min length 1.6m**	☑	☐
208	Backfill	Friable dark grey silt occasional small-medium stones Very similar to (201), contains ceramic land pipe.	☑	☑

Trench: 3

Max Dimensions: Length: 10.00 m. Width: 1.60 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.32 m. Max: 0.51 m.

OS Co-ordinates: Ref. 1: SP8262413209 Ref. 2: SP8261713202

Reason for trench: Evaluate the south-west of the site.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
300	Topsoil	Friable dark grey silt occasional small-medium ceramic building material, occasional small stones Contains occasional fossil oyster Shell. Boundary with (301) diffuse over approximately 0.04m	☑	☐
301	Subsoil	Friable mid grey silt moderate small stones Contains moderate fossil oyster shell fragments.	☑	☐
302	**Ditch**	**Linear NW-SE profile: convex base: uneven dimensions: max breadth 1.01m, max depth 0.5m, min length 1.6m**	☑	☐
303	Upper fill	Firm mid yellow brown silt moderate small-medium chalk Contains moderate fossil oyster shell and pottery	☑	☑
304	Primary fill	Firm dark yellow brown silt moderate small chalk Moderate small fragements of fossil oyster shell	☑	☐
305	Natural	Firm yellow white clay silt Frequent small to large shell fragments (mainly oyster)	☐	☐
306	**Ditch**	**Linear NW-SE profile: concave base: flat dimensions: max breadth 2.18m, max depth 0.69m, min length 1.6m**	☑	☐
307	Upper fill	Friable red brown silty clay frequent small-medium stones	☑	☑
308	Primary fill	Firm mid grey brown silty clay occasional small stones	☑	☐
309	**Land drain**	**Linear NW-SE dimensions: max breadth 0.2m, min length 1.6m**	☑	☐
310	Backfill	Friable dark grey silt occasional small-medium stones Occasional fossil oyster shells. Contains ceramic land pipe. Fill is similar to subsoil (301).	☑	☐

Trench: 4

Max Dimensions: Length: 5.00 m. Width: 1.60 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0. m. Max: 0. m.

OS Co-ordinates: Ref. 1: SP8259713242 Ref. 2: SP8259313239

Reason for trench: Evaluate the north-west of the site.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
400	Topsoil	Friable dark grey brown silt occasional small-medium ceramic building material, moderate small-medium stones Boundary with (401) diffuse over approximately 0.04m	☑	☐
401	Subsoil	Friable mid grey brown silt moderate medium ceramic building material, moderate small-medium chalk, moderate small-medium stones	☑	☐
402	**Land drain**	**Linear NW-SE profile: vertical dimensions: max breadth 0.4m**	☐	☐
403	Backfill	Friable dark grey brown silt moderate small-medium chalk, moderate small-medium stones Fill similar to (401) only slightly darker	☐	☐
404	**Modern Intrusion**	**Sub-oval profile: vertical Vertical sides with concrete edging. Unknown dimensions**	☑	☐
405	Backfill	Firm mid grey brown silt moderate small-medium ceramic building material	☑	☐

5.2 Artefact Summary

5.2.1 Introduction

The evaluation produced an artefact assemblage comprising pottery and animal bone, the majority associated with features in Trench 3. The material was scanned to ascertain the nature, condition and, where possible, date range of the artefact types present. No finds were recovered from Trenches 1 or 4.

Trench	Feature	Type	Context	Spotdate*	Pottery	Animal Bone	Other finds
2	203	Ditch	204	Early Roman	1:2	2:28	Tile fragment (4g)
	207	Land drain	208	Early Roman	1:9		
3	302	Ditch	303	Early Roman	33:133		
	306	Ditch	307	Early Roman	1:11	4:23	
				Total	**38:155**	**6:51**	

* - spotdate based on date of latest artefact in context
(sherd/frag count:weight in grammes)

Table 1: Artefact summary by trench and context

5.2.2 Pottery

Thirty-eight pottery sherds, weighing 155g were recovered. These were examined by context and quantified using minimum sherd count and weight. Sherds are generally small (average weight 4g) and moderately abraded. Six fabric types were identified (Table 2) using common names and type codes in accordance with the Bedfordshire Ceramic Type Series, held by Albion Archaeology. All the pottery is datable to the early Roman period (1st-2nd centuries AD).

Fabric type	Common name	Sherd No.	Context/Sherd No.
Type R	Non-specific Roman	1	(204):1
Type R01	Samian ware	1	(208):1
Type R06B	Coarse greyware	1	(307):1
Type R07B	Sandy blackware	33	(303):33
Type R03B	Gritty whiteware	1	(303):1
UNID	Unidentified ware	1	(303):1

***Table 2*:** Pottery type series

Trench 2
The upper deposit of ditch [203] contained an undiagnostic, decorated fineware sherd, and the backfill of land drain [207] a sherd from a samian ware cup (probably form 37); a continental import of 1st- mid 2nd century date.

Trench 3
The majority of the pottery assemblage derived from the upper deposit of ditch [302], which contained thirty-three sherds of a sand tempered jar and an undiagnostic whiteware sherd, the latter from the Verulamium (St Albans) region. A locally manufactured greyware sherd from a bead rim jar derived from the upper deposit of ditch [306].

5.2.3 Animal bone

Animal remains comprise six fragments, weighing 51g. Bone preservation is uniform and the material survives in good condition, with little surface erosion. Diagnostic material comprises rib, skull and mandible fragments, although these are not identifiable to species.

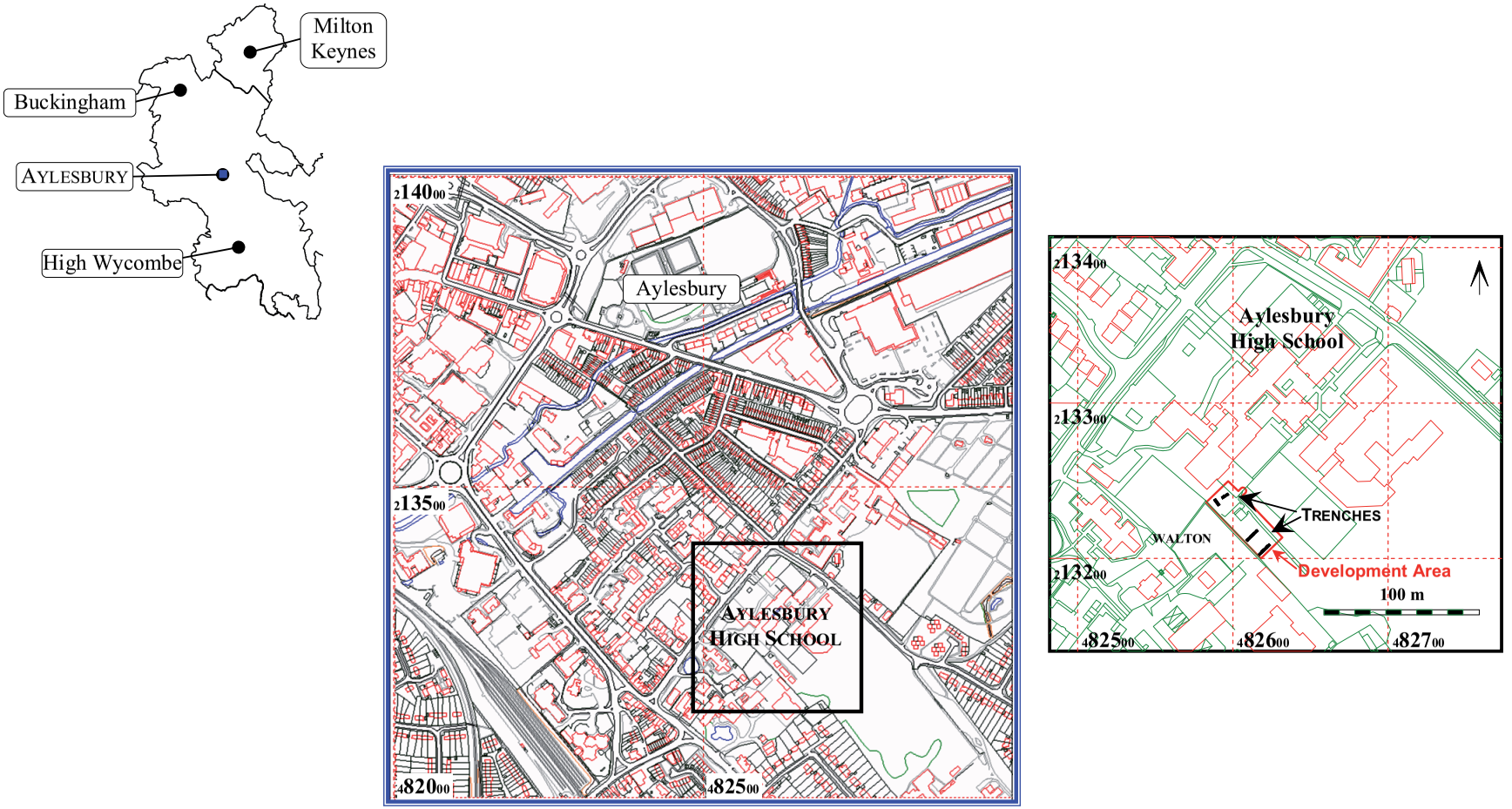
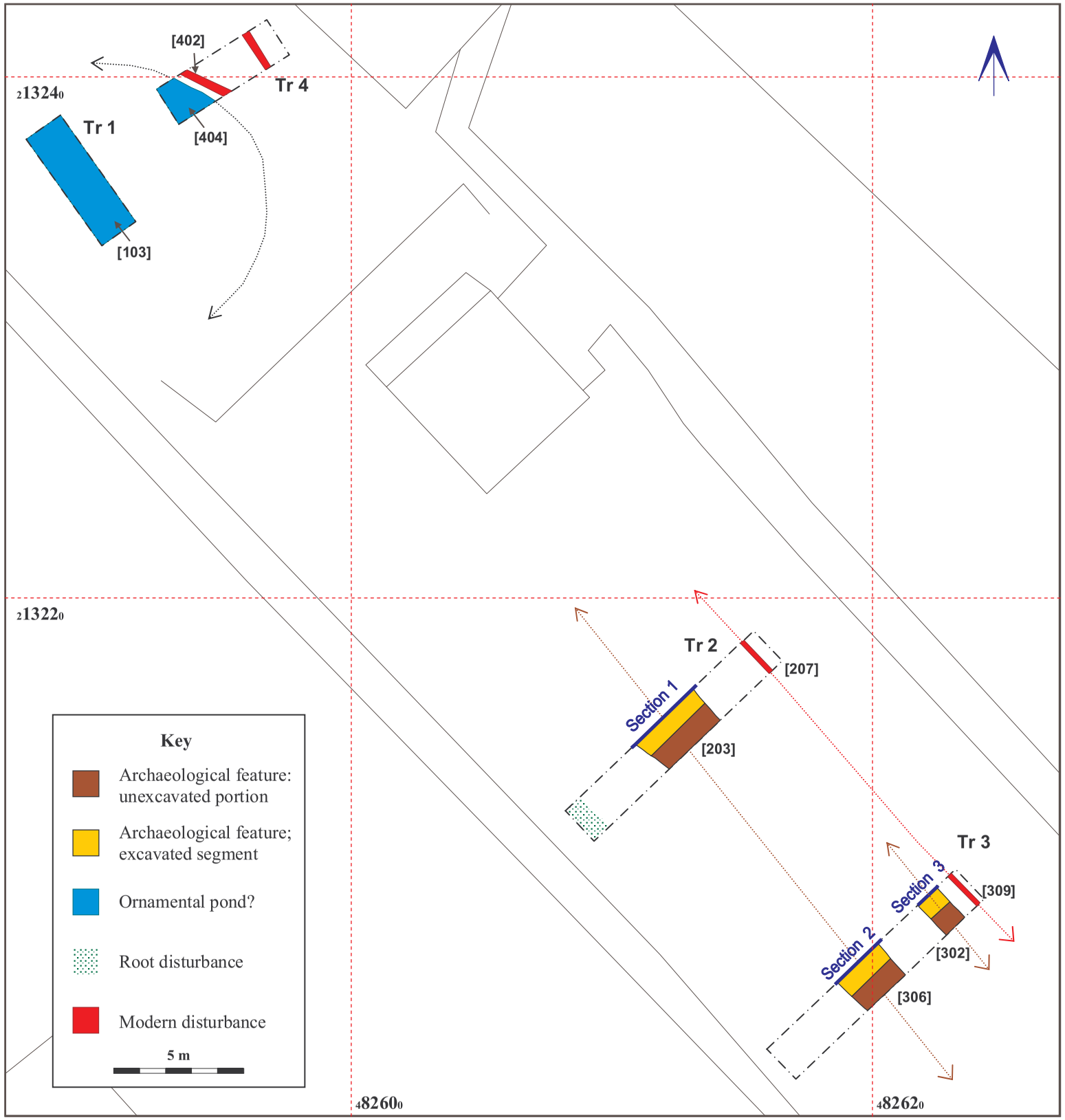
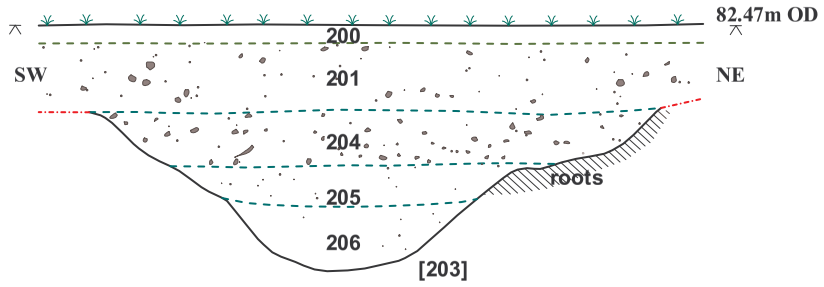
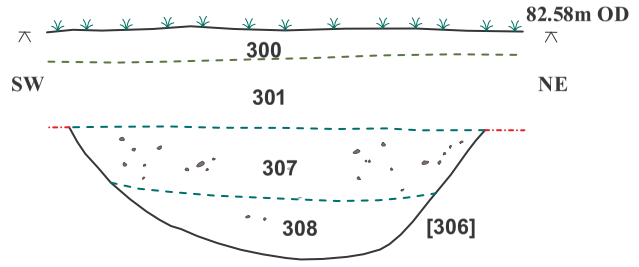


Figure 1: Site location

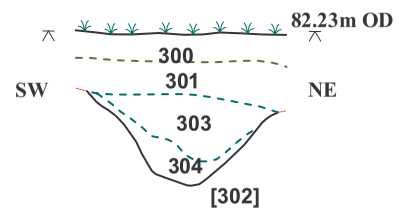




Section 1



Section 2



Section 3

1m

Figure 2: All features plan and section drawings

Plate 1: Ditch [203], looking west, scale 1m

Plate 2: Ditch [302], looking north-west, scale 1m

Plate 3: Ditch [306], looking north-west, scale 1m